AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method of text equivalencing from a ~~query~~ string of characters comprising:

    modifying the <u>query</u> string ~~of characters~~ using a predetermined set of heuristics;

    performing a character-by-character comparison of the modified <u>query</u> string with at <u>least one</u> known string of characters <u>in a corpus</u> in order to locate a match; <u>and</u>

responsive to not finding an exact match, <u>performing the steps of:</u>

    forming a plurality of sub-strings of characters from the <u>query</u> string ~~of~~ ~~characters~~<u>, the sub-strings having varying lengths</u>; and

    using an information retrieval technique on the sub-strings <u>formed from the query string</u> ~~of characters~~ to <u>identify</u> ~~determine~~ a known string of characters equivalent to the <u>query</u> string ~~of characters~~.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the information retrieval technique further comprises:

    weighting the sub-strings;

    scoring ~~the~~ known string<u>s</u> of characters; and

    retrieving information associated with ~~the~~ <u>a</u> known string ~~of characters with~~ <u>having</u> the highest score.

1   3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising, respon-

2   sive to the highest score being greater than a first threshold, automatically accepting

3   the known string ~~of characters~~ <u>having the highest score</u> as an exact match.

1   4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising, respon-

2   sive to the highest score being less than a second threshold and greater than a first

3   threshold, presenting the known string ~~of characters~~ <u>having the highest score</u> to a

4   user for manual confirmation.

1   5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising, respon-

2   sive to the highest score being less than a second threshold and greater than a third

3   threshold, presenting the known string ~~of characters~~ <u>having the highest score</u> to a

4   user to select the equivalent string of characters.

1   6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the sub-strings of~~

2   ~~characters are 3-grams~~ <u>forming a plurality of sub-strings of characters comprises suc-</u>

3   <u>cessively extending sub-strings based on frequency of occurrence in the modified</u>

4   <u>query string</u>.

1   7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the <u>query</u> string ~~of~~

2   ~~characters~~ is selected from the group consisting of a song title, a song artist, an album

3   name, a book title, an author's name, a book publisher, a genetic sequence, and a

4   computer program.

1   8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined

2 set of heuristics comprises removing whitespace from the <u>query</u> string ~~of characters~~.

1   9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined

2 set of heuristics comprises removing a portion of the <u>query</u> string ~~of characters~~.

1   10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined

2 set of heuristics comprises replacing a symbol in the <u>query</u> string ~~of characters~~ with

3 an alternate representation for the symbol.

1   11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising storing <u>a</u>

2 <u>database entry indicating</u> ~~an indication~~ that the <u>query</u> string ~~of characters~~ is ~~the~~ <u>an</u>

3 equivalent of the <u>identified</u> known string ~~of characters~~.

1   12. (Currently amended) A computer implemented system for text equiva-

2 lencing from a <u>query</u> string of characters comprising:

3   a heuristics module for modifying the <u>query</u> string ~~of characters~~ using a pre-

4   determined set of heuristics;

5   a comparator module, coupled to the heuristics module, for performing a

6   character-by-character comparison of the modified <u>query</u> string with a<u>t</u>

7   <u>least one</u> known string of characters <u>in a corpus</u> in order to find a match;

8   a sub-string formation module, coupled to the comparator module, <u>for,</u> re-

9   sponsive to not finding an exact match, ~~for~~ forming a plurality of sub-

10   strings of characters from the query string ~~of characters~~, the sub-strings

11   having varying lengths; and

12   an information retrieval module, coupled to the sub-string formation module,

13   for performing an information retrieval technique on the sub-strings

14   formed from the query string ~~of characters~~ to identify ~~determine~~ a known

15   string of characters equivalent to the query string ~~of characters~~.

1   13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the information re-

2 trieval module further comprises:

3   a weight module for weighting the sub-strings;

4   a score module for scoring ~~the~~ known strings of characters; and

5   a retrieval module, coupled to the weight and score modules, for retrieving in-

6   formation associated with the known string ~~of characters with~~ having the

7   highest score.

1   14. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising an accept module,

2 coupled to the retrieval module, for accepting the information retrieved as an exact

3 match for the highest score greater than a first threshold.

1   15. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising an accept module,

2 coupled to the retrieval module, for presenting the information retrieved to a user for

3 manual confirmation for the highest score less than a first threshold and greater than

4 a second threshold.

1   16. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising an accept module,

2   coupled to the retrieval module, for presenting the information retrieved to the user

3   as a set of options for a user to select for the highest score less than a second thresh-

4   old and greater than a third threshold.

1   17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein ~~the sub-strings of~~

2   ~~characters are 3-grams~~ the sub-string formation module forms a plurality of sub-

3   strings of characters by successively extending sub-strings based on frequency of oc-

4   currence in the modified query string.

1   18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the query string ~~of~~

2   ~~characters~~ is selected from the group consisting of a song title, a song artist, an album

3   name, a book title, and author's name, a book publisher, a genetic sequence, and a

4   computer program.

1   19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the predetermined

2   set of heuristics comprises removing whitespace from the query string ~~of characters~~.

1   20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the heuristics

2   module comprises a removal module for removing a portion of the query string ~~of~~

3   ~~characters~~.

1   21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the heuristics

2   module comprises a replacement module for replacing a symbol in the query string

3   ~~of characters~~ with an alternate representation for the symbol.

1   22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12 further comprising a data-

2   base update module for storing a database entry indicating ~~an indication~~ that the

3   query string ~~of characters~~ is ~~the~~ an equivalent of the identified known string ~~of char-~~

4   ~~acters~~.

1   23. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising com-

2   puter-readable code for performing text equivalencing from a query string of charac-

3   ters comprising:

4   computer-readable code adapted to modify the query string ~~of characters~~ us-

5   ing a predetermined set of heuristics;

6   computer-readable code adapted to perform a character-by-character com-

7   parison of the modified query string with at least one known string of

8   characters in a corpus in order to locate a match; and

9   computer-readable code adapted to, responsive to not finding an exact ~~match,~~

10   ~~adapted to~~:

11   form a plurality sub-strings of characters from the query string ~~of charac-~~

12   ~~ters~~, the sub-strings having varying lengths; and to

13   ~~computer-readable code adapted to~~ use an information retrieval technique

14   on the sub-strings formed from the query string ~~of characters~~ to iden-

15   <u>tify</u> ~~determine~~ a known string of characters equivalent to the <u>query</u>

16   string ~~of characters~~.

1   24. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23,

2 wherein the information retrieval technique further comprises:

3   computer-readable code adapted to weight the sub-strings;

4   computer-readable code adapted to score ~~the~~ known string<u>s</u> of characters; and

5   computer-readable code adapted to retrieve information associated with ~~the~~ <u>a</u>

6   known string ~~of characters with~~ <u>having</u> the highest score.

1   25. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, further

2 comprising computer-readable code, responsive to the highest score being greater

3 than a first threshold, adapted to automatically accept the known string ~~of characters~~

4 <u>having the highest score</u> as an exact match.

1   26. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, further

2 comprising computer-readable core, responsive the highest score being less than a

3 second threshold and greater than a first threshold, adapted to present the known

4 string ~~of characters~~ <u>having the highest score</u> to a user for manual confirmation.

1   27. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, further

2 comprising computer-readable code, responsive to the highest score being less than a

3 second threshold and greater than a third threshold, adapted to present the known

4   string ~~of characters~~ <u>having the highest score</u> to a user to select the equivalent string of

5   characters.

1   28. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23,

2   wherein ~~the sub-strings of characters are 3-grams~~ <u>computer-readable code adapted to</u>

3   <u>form a plurality of sub-strings of characters comprises computer-readable code</u>

4   <u>adapted to successively extend sub-strings based on frequency of occurrence in the</u>

5   <u>modified query string</u>.

1   29. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23,

2   wherein the <u>query</u> string ~~of characters~~ selected from a group consisting of a song ti-

3   tle, a song artist, an album name, a book title, an author's name, a book publisher, a

4   genetic sequence, and a computer program.

1   30. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23,

2   wherein the predetermined set of heuristics comprises removing whitespace from the

3   <u>query</u> string ~~of characters~~.

1   31. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23,

2   wherein the predetermined set of heuristics comprises removing a portion of the

3   <u>query</u> string ~~of characters~~.

1   32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the predetermined

2   set of heuristics comprises replacing a symbol in the <u>query</u> string ~~of characters~~ with

3   an alternate representation for the symbol.

1   33. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 23 further

2 comprising computer-readable code adapted to store a database entry indicating that

3 the query string ~~updating the known string of characters to indicate the string of~~

4 ~~characters~~ is ~~the~~ an equivalent of the identified known string ~~of characters~~.

1   34. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented system for performing

2 text equivalencing from a query string of characters comprising:

3   a modifying means for modifying the query string ~~of characters~~ using a prede-

4   termined set of heuristics;

5   a comparator means for performing a character-by-character comparison of

6   the modified query string with at least one known string of characters in a

7   corpus in order to locate a match;

8   a formation means for, responsive to not finding an exact match, ~~a formation~~

9   ~~means for~~ forming a plurality of sub-strings of characters from the query

10   string ~~of characters,~~ the sub-strings having varying lengths; and

11   an information retrieval means for ~~determining~~ identifying a known string of

12   characters equivalent to the query string ~~of characters~~.

1   35. (Currently amended) The system of claim 34, wherein the information re-

2 trieval means further comprises:

3   a weight means for weighting the sub-strings;

4   a score means for scoring ~~the~~ known strings of characters; and

5   a retrieval means for retrieving information associated with the known string

6   ~~of characters with~~ <u>having</u> the highest score.